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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023954

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/13/2019

TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: INFORMING ISAF OF U.S. PLANS REGARDING MANAS AIR BASE

REF: A. STATE 17012

[1](#)B. BISHKEK 180

Classified By: Classified By: EUR A/S Daniel Fried
for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVE

[1](#)1. (SBU) Action addressees at their discretion may draw on the points outlined in para 3 below to inform International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) member governments of U.S. plans regarding the possible loss of access to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan.

BACKGROUND

[1](#)2. (SBU) On February 3, during a visit to Moscow, Kyrgyz President Bakiyev announced his intention to terminate U.S. access to Manas Air Base. On February 20, following the Kyrgyz parliament's approval of that decision, the Government of Kyrgyzstan formally notified us it was abrogating our 2001 agreement. According to that agreement, we have 180 days from that date to withdraw our personnel and assets. On March 6, the Kyrgyz parliament also abrogated its agreements with eleven other coalition partners. On March 2, however, President Bakiyev indicated to us a willingness to discuss a continued U.S. presence at Manas. We have agreed to continue discussions with the Kyrgyz on the matter.

TALKING POINTS

[1](#)3. (C/REL ISAF) Action addressees at their discretion may draw on the following talking points to inform governments of ISAF troop contributing nations about U.S. plans regarding the possible loss of access to Manas Air Base.

- (SBU) Manas Air Base is important to international operations in Afghanistan, but it is not irreplaceable.

- (SBU) There are alternative facilities that can make up for the loss of the Manas facility.

- (SBU) The Kyrgyz government has indicated a willingness to discuss possible continuation of a U.S. presence in Manas. We note President Bakiyev's public statements to this effect to the BBC on March 4.

- (SBU) We are open to discussing this with the Kyrgyz government but are prepared to depart in accordance with our bilateral agreement.

- (C/REL ISAF) We are minimizing public comments on the possibility of such discussions with the Kyrgyz and we ask that you do the same.

End Points

CLINTON